

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising microcapsules suspended in an aqueous media, said microcapsules comprising a water immiscible material
5 contained within an encapsulating wall of polymeric material, wherein the aqueous media contains a stabilizer comprising an anionic polymer mixture comprising a first sulfonated polystyrene polymer and a second sulfonated polystyrene polymer wherein the ratio of the weight average polymer molecular weight of the first polymer to the second polymer is greater than 2.
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2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the weight average molecular weight of the first polymer is greater than 500,000.
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein the weight average
15 molecular weight of the first polymer is greater than 1,000,000.
4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the weight average molecular weight of the second polymer is less than 300,000.
- 20 5. The composition of claim 2 wherein the weight average molecular weight of the second polymer is less than 300,000.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of the amount of the first polymer to the second polymer is from 1:10 to 10:1.
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7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of the amount of the first polymer to the second polymer is from 30:70 to 70:30.
8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the first polymer comprises
30 greater than 50 % styrene sulfonic acid monomer units.

9. The composition of claim 1 wherein the first polymer comprises greater than 80 % styrene sulfonic acid monomer units.

10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the second polymer
5 comprises greater than 30 % styrene sulfonic acid monomer units.

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein the second polymer is a poly(styrenesulfonic acid-co-maleic acid) salt.

10 12. The composition of claim 1 wherein the stabilizer further comprises pectin.

13. The composition of claim 1 wherein the microcapsules have a mean particle size of greater than 0.5 microns.

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14. The composition of claim 1 wherein the microcapsules have a mean particle size of greater than 2.0 microns.

15. The composition of claim 1 wherein the microcapsules have a
20 mean particle size of less than 20 microns.

16. The composition of claim 1 wherein the microcapsules have a mean particle size of less than 10 microns.

25 17. The composition of claim 13 wherein the microcapsules have a mean particle size of less than 20 microns.

18. The composition of claim 1 wherein the total stabilizer concentration in the aqueous media is less than 10% by weight.

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19. The composition of claim 1 wherein the total stabilizer concentration in the aqueous media is less than 6 % by weight.

20. The composition of claim 1 wherein the total stabilizer concentration in the aqueous media is less than 4 % by weight

5 21. The composition of claim 1 wherein the microcapsules are photohardenable.

22. The composition of claim 1 wherein the water immiscible material is a color precursor which can react with a developer material to form color.
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23. The composition of claim 1 wherein stabilizer comprises pectin and a polymer mixture of a first polymer comprising greater than 80% styrene sulfonic acid monomer units and having a weight average molecular weight of greater than 500,000 and a second polymer comprising less than 30%
15 styrene sulfonic acid monomer units and having a weight average molecular weight of less than 300,000.

24. An imaging element comprising a support and at least one image forming unit comprising microcapsules suspended in an aqueous media, said microcapsules comprising a water immiscible material contained within an encapsulating wall of polymeric material, wherein the aqueous media contains a stabilizer which contains an anionic polymer mixture comprising a first sulfonated polystyrene polymer and a second sulfonated polystyrene polymer wherein the ratio of the weight average polymer molecular weight of the first polymer to the
20 second polymer is greater than 2.
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25. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the weight average molecular weight of the first polymer is greater than 500,000.

30 26. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the weight average molecular weight of the first polymer is greater than 1,000,000.

27. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the weight average molecular weight of the second polymer is less than 300,000.

28. The imaging element of claim 2 wherein the weight average
5 molecular weight of the second polymer is less than 300,000.

29. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the ratio of the amount of the first polymer to the second polymer is from 1:10 to 10:1.

10 30. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the ratio of the amount of the first polymer to the second polymer is from 30:70 to 70:30.

31. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the first polymer comprises greater than 50 % styrene sulfonic acid monomer units.

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32. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the first polymer comprises greater than 80 % styrene sulfonic acid monomer units.

33. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the second polymer
20 comprises greater than 30 % styrene sulfonic acid monomer units.

34. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the second polymer is a poly(styrenesulfonic acid-co-maleic acid) salt.

25 35. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the stabilizer further comprises pectin.

36. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the microcapsules have a mean particle size of greater than 0.5 microns.

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37. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the microcapsules have a mean particle size of greater than 2.0 microns.

38. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the microcapsules have a mean particle size of less than 20 microns.

5 39. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the microcapsules have a mean particle size of less than 10 microns.

40. The imaging element of claim 37 wherein the microcapsules have a mean particle size of less than 20 microns.

10 41. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the total stabilizer concentration in the aqueous media is less than 10% by weight.

42. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the total stabilizer concentration in the aqueous media is less than 6 % by weight.

15 43. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the total stabilizer concentration in the aqueous media is less than 4 % by weight

20 44. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the microcapsules are photohardenable.

45. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein the water immiscible material is a color precursor which can react with a developer material to form color.

25 46. The imaging element of claim 24 wherein stabilizer comprises pectin and a polymer mixture of a first polymer comprising greater than 80% styrene sulfonic acid monomer units and having a weight average molecular weight of greater than 500,000 and a second polymer comprising less than 30%
30 styrene sulfonic acid monomer units and having a weight average molecular weight of less than 300,000.

47. The imaging element of claim 44 wherein the imaging element is light sensitive and heat or pressure developable.

5 48. The imaging element of claim 47 wherein the imaging element is light sensitive and pressure developable.

49. The imaging element of claim 47 wherein the microcapsules encapsulate a color precursor which can react with a developer material in the same image forming unit.

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